

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

China

DATE DISTR. 8 April 1948

SUBJECT

Political Information: Matters Connected With
 General Roshchin's Appointment as USSR Ambassador
 to China

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PLACE
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SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

1. N. T. Fedorenko, Soviet Charge d'Affaires in Nanking, will remain under Roshchin as the Soviet expert on the internal Chinese (?political) situation.

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2. Soviet official circles in Shanghai secretly [privately] deny categorically all reports concerning the appointment of General Roshchin as Ambassador to China.

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3. Prior to his departure in January 1948, General Roshchin called on CHANG Chih-chung Director of the President's Northwest Headquarters. It is not known definitely that the two men specifically discussed USSR mediation in China's civil war.

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4. The recent rumor of impending Soviet mediation between the Central Government and the Chinese Communists has stirred up a great deal of interest among Chinese military and political officials in Peiping.

25X1X The young officers are very much pleased over the prospect of mediation and on February 27 expressed the following convictions:

"Manchuria is a low price to pay for peace. Since the Soviets have removed all industrial machinery we have nothing to lose but the Manchurian crops, and this is not important if the country south of the Great Wall is peaceful. We want peace at any price, but American aid is delaying peace. There is no reason why we should fight the USSR as American soldiers. If the Generalissimo compromises with Russia and stops the war, he will prove his genius in foreign policy. After ten years of war we are tired; we don't want to think about the direction of tomorrow's wind."

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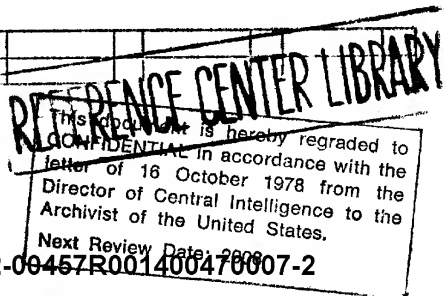
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5. On 26 February 1948, the following statements were made by CHU Wo-hsin, former editor of the Ta Kung Pao in Tientsin and a graduate of Sun Yat-sen University in Moscow:

"The Generalissimo has scored a hit by offering Manchuria to the USSR. It was very clever of him, too, to announce his intention of sending T. V. SOONG to America as his private emissary, thus covering his wife's mission to Moscow, which was to see Stalin and inform him of her husband's desire to trade Manchuria for peace. I'm sure that Mme. CHIANG went to Moscow for three reasons: I got the information from a very reliable source; Mme. CHIANG is ambitious and courageous enough to do such a thing; and it is an opportune time for the Generalissimo and his wife to regain their popularity, which they must do soon to maintain their present position."

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